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THE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Compiled by
Research Students

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of Allâh
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Allâh Says:

"So know (O Muhammad ﷺ) that *Lâ ilâha illallâh* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh)."

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Publishers Note

All the praises and thanks are due to Allâh, the *Rubb* of the worlds, and may Allâh exalt the mention of the Prophet Muhammad, the chosen, the trustworthy, and the mention of his Household and all of his Companions.

Islam is the greatest favor of Allâh with which He has distinguished the mankind and Jinn. It is only a *Deen* which Allâh made the last of all religions. He says:

﴿ ٱلْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ ٱلْإِسْلَٰمَ دِينًا ﴾
[المائدة: ٣]

"Today, I have completed your *deen* for you, and perfected my favor upon you, and accepted Islam as a *deen* for you." (5:3)

He also said:

﴿ وَمَن يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ ٱلْإِسْلَٰمِ دِينًا فَلَن يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي ٱلْآخِرَةِ مِنَ ٱلْخَٰسِرِينَ ﴾
[آل عمران: ٨٥]

"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam. It will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers." (3:85)

Hence, It is the duty of every Muslim to value this divine favor by adhering to it. This could not be accomplished without understanding all the aspects of the religion which should be based on the Qur'ân and the *Sunnah*.

It is for this reason we have chosen this book, "The Pillars of Islam" which explain the basic fundamentals of Islam i.e., the two Testimonies, the Prayer, the *Zakât*, the Fast and the *Hajj* which prepared by some research schollers of knowledge of the religion. Due to practiced by the tongue, the limbs and the heart, as well as with one's wealth, this is very important subject to acquire knowledge of basic principles.

By the grace and mercy of Allâh, Darussalam has published this entire work and it is our stream desire to publish like this more to explain the Islamic knowledge. This work is rather a basic work and we have tried to keep that simplicity and easy to follow style of presenting logically.

The book 'The Pillars of Islam,' is originally in Arabic, compiled by research students and was published by Dar Al-Vaseelah. I am very thankful and ask Allâh to reward Br. Talal bin Muhammad Mulouh who has given us written permission to translate and publish the said book. I am also thankful to Br. Jalal Abdur Rub, who has rendered it into a very simple and eloquent English, intelligible to all. I am also thankful to all the staff members of Darussalam, especially Mr. Saeeduddin, who have exerted their best efforts in bringing out the book. The publisher will appreciate views of the readers about the book.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager
Darussalam

Foreword

Whom we thank, praise and seek forgiveness from. We ask Allâh to make us among those who appreciate His tremendous Bounties and to save us from His painful Torment. I hereby testify that Allâh, Alone, is the only True Deity worthy of worship. I also testify that Muhammad was sent from the Lord and that he has conveyed the Message and delivered what he was entrusted with. I bear witness that the Rightly-Guided Caliphs and the rest of the companions were among the truthful believers, the martyrs and the righteous, believers, and that they have conveyed the Prophet's Message, implemented it and delivered to those who came after them. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on His Prophet, and may He be pleased with all of the Prophet's companions and all those who followed them with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

I have read this beneficial research, compiled by several students of knowledge of the religion, that explains the five pillars of Islâm: the two Testimonies, the Prayer, the *Zakât*, the Fast and the *Hajj*. These five pillars were chosen as the subject of this research on account of their great importance. Also, these pillars are practiced by the tongue, the limbs and the heart, as well as with one's wealth. Hence, Muslims need to acquire knowledge of these pillars, especially because ignorance is widespread regarding them, and shortcomings in implementing them have become common in many so-called Muslim societies that neither implement Islâmic teachings nor practice its pillars. In addition, such Muslim societies are clearly deficient in the area of true Islâmic knowledge; furthermore those who could teach them such knowledge or advise them are in scarcity in the present time. In addition to these deficiencies, such Muslims combine both the shortcomings that they fall in and busy themselves in joyful and heedless plays.

It is a fact that when Muslims practice the pillars of Islâm as they should be practiced and according to the correct *Sunnah*, which adds perfection to the acts, then they will be guided to practice the rest of the obligations of the religion. Hence, such Muslims

will take special care in learning matters of the Islâmic Creed, acquire their livelihood from pure, legal means, avoid sins and errors of all kinds and implement the Islâmic code of righteous behavior and conduct.

This research contains only a brief explanation of the most important aspects of the pillars of Islâm in plain and easy to understand terms. Those who collected this research mentioned only one opinion that they thought them most close to the truth, although others might chose different opinions regarding these matters. It is a fact that mentioning the areas of differences in detail might confuse the general public. Also, when Muslims acquire knowledge and fully comprehend the Islâmic rulings in plain and simple terms, they will rush to implement these practices. If they add to this the good intention, they will acquire the rewards of Allâh and save themselves from the repercussions of falling into shortcomings and errors, Allâh willing.

We encourage all those who seek to practice the goodly acts, to help and distribute this and similar publications throughout the Muslim countries and societies, so that Muslims become aware of their religion. Surely, he who guides the people to an act of righteousness will acquire a reward similar to the reward of those who implement the act of righteousness. Also, he who calls to a true guidance, will acquire a reward similar to the rewards of those who heed his call to guidance, without decreasing from their own rewards. We ask Allâh to grant His best rewards to those who compiled this research and those who published it. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, his family and Companions.

Shaikh Abdullah bin Abdur-Rahman bin Jabrin
A member of *Al-Iftâ* Committee

Introduction

All the thanks and praises are due to Allâh, Whom we thank and seek for help and forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allâh from the evils within ourselves and from the burden of our evil deeds. Whomsoever Allâh guides, will never be misled, and whomsoever He misguides, will never find guidance. We hereby testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh, without partners, and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on His Messenger, his household, his honorable companions and all those who followed their guidance with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

This is a book that explains the five pillars of Islâm, meaning, testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh, establishing the prayer, paying the obligatory charity (*Zakât*), fasting during Ramadân and performing pilgrimage to Allâh's Sacred House. We sought to make this book as brief as we could, mentioning the various rulings along with their supporting evidences from Allâh's Glorious Book, the authentic and honorable *Sunnah* and the consensus (*Ijma'*). Further, we indicated the respective chapters of the Qur'ânic verses contained in this book, along with referring the *Ahadith* mentioned herein to the respective collections of *Ahadith*.

We also added several major headlines and subheadlines that should make it easier for the reader to better comprehend and understand the information contained within. We collected the material for this book from the various books of Islâm of old and present, and arranged the subjects in an easy, simple form that is suitable for the general public.

In this edition, we added some important areas of interest which are as follows.

1. The conditions of the two Testimonies.
2. The method with which the ill person performs the purity

(*Tahârah*).

3. The preferred acts of the prayer and the description of the *Witr*.

4. The method with which the ill person performs the prayer (*Salât*).

We ask Allâh to benefit all Muslims with this book, for He is the Most Generous, Most Kind. The last of out speech, is all the thanks and praises be to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.



THE TWO TESTIMONIES

Testifying that 'there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh' is the first pillar of Islâm, and it includes testifying that 'Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh' — although sometimes this part is not mentioned. This pillar is the most well-established and well-known fact of the religion of Islâm and is universally agreed upon by all Muslims.

We will discuss this great pillar of Islâm in the following paragraphs.

1. The other names of the Testimony of *Tawhid*

The Testimony (*Shahâdah*) that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh, has several names and titles that explain its essence and true meanings, such as "The word of *Tawhid* (Oneness of Allâh)", "The Word of Sincerity (*Ikhlas*)", "The Word of Testimony (*Shahâdah*)" and "The Testimony of Truth."

2. Its Pillars

The Testimony of *Tawhid* has two pillars which are as follows:

A. The negation — "There is no deity worthy of worship."

B. The affirmation — "Except Allâh."

Hence, this Testimony negates the existence of any deity worthy of worship except Allâh, Whom the testimony affirms His Lordship without any partners. These two pillars for the Word of *Tawhid* were mentioned in many verses (*Ayât*) in the Qur'ân that explain its meanings and implications.

Allâh ﷻ said:

﴿ لَآ إِكْرَاهَ فِي ٱلدِّينِ ۖ قَد تَّبَيَّنَ ٱلرُّشْدُ مِنَ ٱلْغَيِّ ۚ فَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِٱلطَّٰغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنۢ بِٱللَّهِ فَقَدِ ٱسْتَمْسَكَ بِٱلْعُرْوَةِ ٱلْوُثْقَىٰ لَا ٱنفِصَامَ لَهَا ۗ وَٱللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٥٦].

"There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever

disbelieves in *Tâghût* and believes in Allâh, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allâh is All-Hearer, All-Knower." (2:256)

"The most trustworthy handhold" means testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh, as Ibn Abbas, Sa'id bin Jubayr, Adh-Dhahhak and Sufyan have explained it.

The *Tâghût* (false deities) entails all what the slave elevates to an undeserved status, whether a deity, a leader or an obeyed person — if such persons agree to be elevated to this undeserved status.

The previous *Ayah* indicates and mentions the two pillars of the Testimony of *Tawhid*: disbelieving in the *Tâghût*, and believing in Allâh; and this is the meaning of testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh (*la ilâha illallâh* لا إله إلا الله).

Allâh ﷻ said:

﴿ وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ ﴾ [النحل: ٣٦].

"And verily, We have sent among every *Ummah* (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): 'Worship Allâh (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) *Tâghût* (all false deities, i.e., do not worship *Tâghût* besides Allâh).' Then of them were some whom Allâh guided and of them were some upon whom the straying was justified. So travel through the land and see what was the end of those who denied (the truth)." (16:36)

This *Ayah* also affirms the meanings that the previous *Ayah* has affirmed.

Allâh stated that the people of 'Âd said:

﴿ قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِنَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ وَحْدَهُ وَنَذَرَ مَا كَانَ يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٧٠].

"They said: 'You have come to us that we should worship Allâh Alone and forsake that which our fathers used to worship. So bring us that wherewith you have threatened us if you are of the truthful.'" (7:70)

In response to what Prophet Hud عليه السلام has told them:

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴾ [الأعراف: ٦٥].

"And to 'Âd (people, We sent) their brother Hûd. He said: 'O my people! Worship Allâh! You have no other *Ilâh* (God) but Him. (*Lâ ilâha illallâh*: none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh.) Will you not fear (Allâh)?'" (7:65)

Hud's statement entails the meaning of the testimony that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh (*Lâ ilâha illallâh* لا إله إلا الله) just as Allâh said in another *Ayah*:

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴾ [الأنبياء: ٢٥].

"And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad ﷺ) but We revealed to him (saying): *Lâ ilâha illa Ana* [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allâh)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)." (21:25)

When Hud عليه السلام called the people of 'Ád to testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh, they understood two aspects from this testimony.

The first is included in their statement: 'that we worship Allâh Alone,' which is the pillar of affirmation that we mentioned.

The second is included in their statement: 'and forsake that which our forefathers used to worship,' which is the pillar of the negation that we mentioned.

Imam Muslim reported that Allâh's Messenger ﷺ said: